

Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Report MMWR Week 7 Weeks Ending 02/19/2016



This report covers flu surveillance activities for the 28 counties that comprise Health Service Region 8: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, De Witt, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, La Salle, Lavaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson, and Zavala.

Flu Activity:

Reports were received from 25 counties for this two-week period.

Five counties reported no flu or ILI activity.

Five counties reported ILI activity only.

Thirteen counties reported flu by rapid test.

Two counties reported flu by PCR.

In Region 8, activity in week 7 was increased from week 6.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

During week 07, two influenza-associated outbreaks were reported in schools located in HSR 6/5S. One school influenza-associated outbreak involves at least 137 people. Thirty three people were positive for influenza (unknown type) and at least 104 people had ILI. The other school influenza-associated outbreak involves at least 19 people. Sixteen people associated with this outbreak were positive for either influenza A (unknown subtype) or influenza B and three people had ILI symptoms. Both outbreaks are currently ongoing and being investigated. No school closures were reported during week 06.

Antiviral Resistance- No antiviral resistant flu reported.

Variant Influenza Viruses- No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas.

Summary

Influenza activity continues to increase across the state. It is too early to tell if influenza activity has peaked for the season. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens positive for influenza and the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) increased. Two ILI/influenza-associated outbreaks were reported and no influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses were detected in Texas during week 07.

